

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/J:WCSHERMAN:BCL

APPROVED BY P - MR HABIB

EA - MR HUMMEL

S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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P 190004Z JAN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 012074

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST FOR FUKUDA MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
ELECT CARTER IN WASHINGTON.

1. AMBASSADOR TOGO CALLED ON UNDERSECRETARY HABIB JAN 17
TO REPORT ON HIS RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN TOKYO. ASSISTANT
SECRETARY DESIGNATE HOLBROOKE ALSO ATTENDED.

2. TOGO SAID PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA HAD BEEN DELIGHTED BY
PRESIDENT ELECT CARTER'S TELEPHONE CALL AND FLATTERED BY
FACT THAT IT WAS FIRST ONE PLACED TO WORLD LEADERS. HE
HAD ASKED TOGO TO MAKE SEVERAL POINTS ON HIS RETURN TO
WASHINGTON. FIRST, IT WAS FUKUDA'S HOPE THAT THE PROPOSED
SUMMIT MEETING WOULD BE HELD AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INITI-
ATIVE. SECONDLY, HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNI-
TY FOR FULL DISCUSSIONS WITH JAPAN BEFORE THE NEW ADMINI-
STRATION ANNOUNCED ANY MAJOR STEPS IN ASIA. MR HABIB

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ASSURED HIM THAT HE NEED HAVE NO WORRIES REGARDING THE
LATTER POINT. THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY CONSULT
JAPAN BEFORE EMBARKING ON ANY NEW POLICIES.

3. TOGO THEN TURNED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S DESIRE TO
MEET WIT; PRESIDENT CARTER AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME,
HOPEFULLY BEFORE AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HE NOTED THAT THE

PRIME MINISTER WAS REQUIRED TO BE PRESENT AT THE DIET VIRTUALLY CONTINUOUSLY UNTIL THE BUDGET WAS PASSED IN APRIL. FOR THIS REASON, THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE MARCH 21-22 AS A POSSIBLE DATE. (MARCH 21 IS A JAPANESE NATIONAL HOLIDAY AND THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY IS HAVING A NATIONAL CONVENTION ON MARCH 22 FOR WHICH THE DIET WILL RECESS.)

4. HABIB AGREED EXPLORE DATES WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION BUT MADE NO COMMITMENT.

5. TOGO NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN A GOOD DEAL OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE UPCOMING VISIT BY VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE. HOLBROOKE POINTED OUT THAT PRINCIPAL AIM OF MONDALE VISIT WAS TO PERSONALLY EXPLAIN THE HIGH PRIORITY WHICH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION PLACED ON RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, AND BEYOND THAT, TO SEEK JAPANESE VIEWS ON ANY SUBJECTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO CLARIFY U.S. POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO JAPANESE (E.G., KOREA); HOWEVER, THE TRIP WAS NOT REPEAT NOT A NEGOTIATING SESSION. THE VICE PRESIDENT WOULD NOT INTEND TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF ISSUES SUCH AS FISHERIES, CIVIL AVIATION OR EVEN KOREA. HE IS READY TO CLARIFY OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD THE PACIFIC REGION AND HE WILL ALSO WISH TO EXPLAIN WHAT STEPS THE U.S. WILL BE TAKING TO STIMULATE ITS ECONOMY.

6. TOGO SAID HE HOPED TO CALL ON VICE PRESIDENT ELECT
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MONDALE BEFORE HE LEFT ON HIS TRIP. HABIB SAID THAT SUCH A CALL WOULD BE APPROPRIATE, BUT NOTED THAT VICE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE WAS ALMOST TOTALLY PREEMPTED BY INAUGURATION ACTIVITIES. HE SAID HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE.

7. TOGO REFERRED TO EUROPEAN PROPOSALS FOR MEETINGS, NOTABLY A SUGGESTION BY SCHMIDT FOR A MEETING OF ECONOMIC MINISTERS PRECEDING AN EVENTUAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT, INDICATING A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF JAPANESE UNHAPPINESS WITH THE SUGGESTION. HE ALSO ASKED WHETHER THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MAY WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE TIMING OF A MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC SUMMIT. HABIB SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY REACTION TO THE SCHMIDT PROPOSAL, AND THAT THE NATO MEETING HAD BEEN LONG-PLANNED AND WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY BE RELATED TO AN ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

8. HOLBROOKE SAID HE HOPED GOJ WOULD UNDERSTAND THE HIGH PRIORITY PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS HIS ADMINISTRATION PUT ON

JAPAN. IF IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK OUT A SUMMIT MEETING FOR THE MARCH DATES, IT WOULD NOT BE BECAUSE OF LACK OF UNDERSTANDING OF JAPAN'S IMPORTANCE TO THE UNITED STATES AND TO THE WORLD. WE WERE TRYING TO UNDERLINE THIS POINT WITH THE PROJECTED VISIT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT AND WITH THE PRESIDENT ELECT'S TELEPHONE CALLS. TOGO REPLIED THAT HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD UNDERSTAND IF THE MARCH DATES DID NOT WORK OUT, BUT NEVERTHELESS HOPED FOR OUR BEST EFFORTS.

9. AS TOGO DEPARTED HE CAUTIONED DEPARTMENT OFF THAT ANY LEAK OF FACT THAT SPECIFIC DATES HAD BEEN DISCUSSED COULD BE POLITICALLY DANGEROUS FOR PRIME MINISTER. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: WCSHERMAN:BCL
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Executive Order: GS
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Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3557464
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOJ REQUEST FOR FUKUDA MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ELECT CARTER IN WASHINGTON.
TAGS: PFOR, JA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (FUKUDA)
To: TOKYO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bfdfa2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009